

\* \* R E M A R K S \* \*

Applicants wish to acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's analysis and efforts in examining this application.

The Official Action of May 4, 2005, has been thoroughly studied. Accordingly, the changes presented herein for the application, considered together with the following remarks, are believed to be sufficient to place the application into condition for allowance.

On page 5 of the Official Action, the Examiner has objected to Claim 29 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim (Claim 18) and the intervening claims (Claims 28, 24). Accordingly, Claim 18 has, thus, been rewritten. It is noted that the limitations of the body and seal have been canceled from Claim 18. This is because pursuant the Examiner's indication in his first Office Action mailed November 3, 2004, the addition of Claim 29 to Claim 18 would make Claim 18 allowable without the inclusion of the body or the seal. In other words, those two limitations are not required for patentability.

Also, on page 5 of the Official Action, the Examiner indicated that Claim 15 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Pursuant an interview with the Examiner on August 1, 2005, wherein the Examiner had reviewed amended Claim 1 which includes the limitations of Claims 15 and 11, the Examiner confirmed that Claim 1 is allowable.

In light of these amendments, it is respectfully submitted that the remainder of the Examiner's rejections are moot. Nevertheless, for purposes of a complete record, it is noted that during an interview with the Examiner on July 12, 2005, the Examiner's obviousness rejection of Claims 18 through 21 and 24 through 27 under Walters in view of Desmond was discussed. It

was agreed during the interview that, in fact, the combination of those references do not teach the rejected claims and the Examiner indicated that this rejection would be withdrawn.

In addition, because the undersigned did not understand the Examiner's meaning of the phrase "engineering expediency" in the context of the two obviousness rejections, clarification was requested. The Examiner indicated that "engineering expediency" was essentially the same as "equivalent" structures pulled from different references that could be interchanged to make the claimed invention. The analogy offered was substituting screws for nails to fasten two boards together. The Examiner indicated that the concept of "engineering expediency" was not "official notice" as the term is used and defined in the MPEP, nor was the term intended to identify motivation or likelihood of success in an obviousness analysis.

With respect to the anticipation rejections, it was agreed that the recitation of limitations identified as being disclosed in the Desmond reference on page 4 of the Office Action was incorrect. In addition, there was no agreement reached regarding the Examiner's indefiniteness rejection to the phrase "bearing member." With respect to this rejection, it was the Examiner's position that the word bearing was not being used consistent with his definition of the word bearing, which was essentially a structure that supports another structure.


It is believed that the above represents a complete response to the Official Action and favorable reconsideration by the Examiner is requested. The proposed amendments do not raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search, do not raise the issue of new matter, do not increase the number of claims in the application, and are deemed to place the application in better form for allowance, or at minimum reduce or simplify the issues for appeal.

If, upon consideration of the above, the Examiner should feel that there remain outstanding issues in the present application that could be resolved, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' patent counsel at the telephone number given below to discuss such issues.

Serial No. 10/620526  
Docket No. 614359-82654

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 is hereby made. To the extent additional fees are required, please charge the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 02-1010 (614359/82654) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory S. Cooper", is written over a horizontal line.

Gregory S. Cooper  
Reg. No. 40,965  
Direct Line: (260) 425-4660